(a) the number of permanent workers in Military Engineering Service (MES);

(b) the number of existing vacancies;

(c) the action taken by Government to fill up the vacancies;

(d) the number of workers engaged through contract during the last three years; and

(e) the total payment made for labour contract during the last three years, year-wise in MES?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The number of permanent workers in Military Engineer Service (MES) is 1,28,684.

(b) The number of existing vacancies in MES is 52209.

(c) The vacancies are filled up as per Annual Direct Recruitment Plan (ADRP).

(d) and (e) The number of workers engaged through contract and payment made for labour contract during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Workers engaged	Payment made
2005-2006	5553	Rs. 24,71,75,862/-
2006-2007	6441	Rs. 30,91,40,468/-
2007-2008	7142	Rs. 39,55,96,459/-

Purchase of more arms from USA than Russia

1731. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is purchasing more arms from USA than Russia as reported in newspapers recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for shifting away from traditional and trusted ally of Russia?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir. Procurement of defence equipment is made by the Government from various indigenous as well as foreign sources, including Russia and the USA, to meet the approved requirements of the Armed Forces, for adequate defence preparedness.

(b) Does not arise.

Decline in military tie ups and imports from Russia

1732. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he had talks with the Russian Defence Minister Mr. Anatoly Serdyukov in a bid to resolve problems dogging ongoing mega military projects;